

**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources**  
**DNR Boardroom**  
**2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE**  
**Suite 1252, East Tower**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Board Members**

Lesley Reynolds, Chair  
Patrick Denney, Vice Chair  
Randy Dellinger, Secretary  
Nancy Addison  
Jeff Andrews  
Dan Garcia  
Joe Hatfield  
Mark Hennessy  
Penn Hodge  
Steve Hufstetler  
Duncan Johnson  
Ray Lambert  
Brent Layton  
Mike Peavy  
Bodine Sinyard  
Harley Yancey

**Staff Members**

Walter Rabon, Commissioner  
Thomas Barnard  
Trevor Santos  
Kyle Pearson  
Kate Iannuzzi  
Taylor Fisher  
Mike England  
Doug Haymans  
Ted Will  
Angie Johnson  
Jeff Cown  
Katie Bloomfield  
Katherine Darsey  
James Boylan  
Chuck Mueller  
Xavier Jones  
Daniel Brown  
Lee Taylor  
Tina Johannsen  
Jessica James Weems  
Cassie Scott

**Guests**

Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environment Coalition  
Heather Teilhet, Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Ag Council  
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Government Relations  
Jon Bandzul, Georgia Power  
Christopher King, speaker  
Lyndy Rogers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation  
Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountain Authority

The March 25, 2025 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairwoman Lesley Reynolds.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Christopher King, an outdoor enthusiast and disability advocate, to deliver a moment of inspiration.

Chairwoman Reynolds adjourned the Board meeting and moved into the Committee meetings.

Chairwoman Reynolds called the March 25, 2025 meeting of the Board of Natural Resources to order.

Chairwoman Reynolds called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on February 25, 2025.

**A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on February 25, 2025.**

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Cown updated the Board on the Environmental Protection Division's legislative priorities in the General Assembly, as well as updates at the federal level, regarding the U.S. EPA's multiple rule changes, as the new Administration recently took office.

Director Cown stated that this concluded his report.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Walter Rabon, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Rabon thanked Christopher King for speaking to the Board.

Commissioner Rabon introduced Cassie Scott, the new Commissioner's Office Coordinator.

Commissioner Rabon thanked Board members who attended the recent Appalachian Trail Stamp Dedication Ceremony and CoastFest.

Commissioner Rabon gave an update on the 2025 legislative session. He stated HB 287 had completed the legislative process and would soon be transmitted to the Governor for consideration. He further stated HB 208 was passed by the Senate Public Safety Committee last week and would hopefully be voted on by the Senate this week. He added the Senate Appropriations Agriculture and

Natural Resources Subcommittee approved the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program slate of 2024-2025 conservation projects. He stated this was the final step of the approval process and grantees would be notified of their selection.

Commissioner Rabon gave Division updates which included the start of the statewide turkey season; the addition of three new cottages at Chattahoochee Bend State Park; the hiring process for the 40<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Academy; the Law Enforcement Division's assistance with Floyd County fires; and the retirement of Captain Rick Sellars.

Commissioner Rabon called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his update.

Director Haymans gave an update on the virtual meetings for the dock rules; upgrades at the Champney Boat Ramp facility; and the 29<sup>th</sup> annual CoastFest.

Commissioner Rabon called on Ted Will, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his update.

Director Will gave an update on crappie research occurring across the state; fishing events for the Outdoors Beyond Barriers program; the WRD Statewide meeting; an R3 partnership hunt with Albany State University; and the use of drones for prescribed fires.

Director Will called on Daniel Brown, License and Boater Registration Unit Supervisor, who gave an overview of the LRB unit and highlighted their recent successes.

Mr. Brown answered questions from the Board about trapping licenses and lifetime licenses.

Chairman Rabon stated that this concluded his report.

Chairwoman Reynolds stated that there were no action items on the agenda for this month. She further stated the 39<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Academy Graduation would be held on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. She added the next Board meeting would be Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

There being no further business, Chairwoman Reynolds adjourned the meeting.

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Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

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Randy Dellinger, Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Environmental Protection Committee**  
**2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.**  
**Suite 1252 East Tower**  
**Atlanta, GA 30334**

**March 25, 2025**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Ray Lambert, Chair  
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chair  
Nancy Addison  
Jeff Andrews  
Patrick Denney  
Dan Garcia  
Penn Hodge  
Steve Hufstetler  
Duncan Johnson  
Brent Layton  
Lesley Reynolds Board Chair, Ex-officio

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Joe Hatfield  
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Jessica James Weems  
Cassie Scott

The March 25, 2025 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Lesley Reynolds.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Chairman Lambert called on James Boylan, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present a briefing on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1.

Mr. Boylan stated EPD regularly updates rules to incorporate changes to U.S. EPA rules, incorporate new U.S. EPA rules, remove obsolete requirements, align State rules with Federal rules, and update references to the most current document.

Mr. Boylan stated that key changes include updating to the definition of “Procedures for Testing and Monitoring Sources of Air Pollutants,” as well as revising the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality rule to incorporate the most recent version of the federal modeling guidelines and to correct typographical errors. He further stated that the updates to certain New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), which are technology-based standards that limit criteria air pollutant emissions from new sources in specific source categories. He added that there are updates to certain Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, which are control technology requirements for sources in specific source categories.

Mr. Boylan stated that key changes also include removal of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction (SSM) Emissions for SIP-Approved Rules because it is no longer required by the U.S. EPA. He further stated that there are updates and an exemption addition to NOx Emissions from Stationary Gas Turbines and Stationary Engines used to Generate Electricity rule. He added that this rule is being revised to add an exemption to allow the electric utilities to utilize emergency generators to provide power to the electric grid during periods of power interruption or severe weather events. He further added that this rule is also being revised to add clarity to the definition of emergency standby stationary gas turbines and stationary engines, add a definition for emergency standby stationary engines at data centers, update a citation, correct grammar, and fix typographical errors. He finally stated that this rule update will align the State rule with the Federal rule.

Mr. Boylan stated that after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board today, there will be a public hearing and public comment period in April – May 2025. He further stated he plans to request adoption of the proposed amendments at the June 24, 2025 DNR Board meeting.

Chairman Lambert called on members of the Board, who asked Mr. Boylan questions and Mr. Boylan responded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes  
Wildlife Resources Committee  
DNR Boardroom  
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE  
Suite 1252, East Tower**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025  
9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Steve Hufstetler, Vice Chair  
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The March 25, 2025 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Steve Hufstetler, Vice Chair of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief of Game Management, to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2.

Ms. Johannsen stated that public meetings were conducted in January of this year to receive input for consideration into the development of hunting regulation proposals. She further stated the Division received 120 email comments relating to hunting regulations. She added all public input had been summarized by subject and included in the package.

Ms. Johannsen stated the proposed regulations included standardizing the definition of “youth” to reflect statutory changes; establishing disposal requirements for deer carcasses; adding Calhoun County to the southwestern deer zone; allowing a replacement tag for deer that test positive for chronic wasting disease; allowing for an antlerless two-day hunt in certain counties; reducing the teal season in accordance with federal regulations; regulating hunting and other activities on Wildlife Management Areas and other public lands; and housekeeping changes.

Ms. Johannsen stated public hearings on these proposals would be held in mid-April to receive public comment. She further stated that she anticipated presenting these proposals and any public comment received to the Board for consideration at the May 20, 2025 meeting.

Ms. Johannsen answered questions from the Board concerning chronic wasting disease. She stated that the Wildlife Resources Division would continue to work with processors and taxidermists to collect samples, along with nuisance control permit holders this summer. She further stated that the updated carcass disposal regulations would be shared with the public through the hunting regulations guide, email, website and social media. She added all chronic wasting disease testing is currently taking place at the UGA lab in Athens, but the Department is working closely with UGA to make the process more efficient. She stated that the Department will continue to monitor and test for the disease in Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.